

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LENDING 02032 01 OF 02 241528Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /075 W  
-----037499 241642Z /43  
R 241508Z JUL 78  
FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD  
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4535

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LENINGRAD 02032

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, EAGR, UR  
SUBJECT: ROMANOV SPEECH ON AGRICULTURE

REF: MOSCOW 17037

1. SUMMARY. IN LIGHT OF SPECULATION IN REFTEL ABOUT POSSIBLE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN RECENTLY-DECEASED POLITBURO OFFICIAL KULAKOV AND BREZHNEV OVER AGRICULTURAL POLICY, AND FACT LENINGRAD PARTY CHIEF ROMANOV ATTENDED FUNERAL BOYCOTTED BY TOP LEADERSHIP, THERE ARE ASPECTS OF ROMANOV'S SPEECH TO JULY 14 LENINGRAD OBLAST' PLENUM (REPORTED MORE FULLY BY AIRGRAM) WHICH EMBASSY MAY FIND INTERESTING IN ITS FURTHER ANALYSIS OF KULAKOV AFFAIR. SPECIFICALLY, ROMANOV'S STRONG EMPHASIS ON CORRECTNESS OF POLICY OF PUSHING CONSTRUCTION OF AGRO-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEXES, AND THE INDUSTRIAL TWIST WHICH HE GAVE THE ISSUE OF PRIVATE PLOT PRODUCTION, WOULD SEEM TO PLACE HIM IN "KULAKOV CAMP" ON THESE ISSUES, IF SUCH EXISTS. ABSENCE OF COLLECTIVE FARMS AND PRESENCE OF AGRICULTURE-RELATED INDUSTRIES IN LENINGRAD OBLAST' GIVE ROMANOV AN UNDERSTANDABLE BIAS AGAINST SMALL PLOTS AND IN FAVOR OF FARMING ON AN INDUSTRIAL BASIS. SPEECH IS INTERESTING ON ITS OWN MERIT AS AN APPROACH TO NON-BLACK SOIL AGRICULTURE. END SUMMARY.  
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PAGE 02 LENDING 02032 01 OF 02 241528Z

2. FOLLOWING WERE HIGHLIGHTS OF ONE AND HALF PAGE SUMMARY IN LENINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA OF ROMANOV'S JULY 14 SPEECH TO LENINGRAD OBLAST' COMMITTEE PLENUM, ATTENDED BY CENTRAL COMMITTEE AGRICULTURAL SECTION CHIEF V. M. ZINOVKIN CONVENED TO DISCUSS IMPLICATIONS OF JULY PLENUM FOR FUTURE WORK IN THE OBLAST'. (AACCTU HELD TRADE UNION

PLENUM ON SAME DAY FOR SAME PURPOSE, ATTENDED BY FIRST DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF CC PARTY-ORGANIZATIONAL SECTION N. A. PETROVICH. ONLY BRIEF SUMMARY WAS CARRIED IN PRESS.) WHILE ROMANOV MADE REPEATED BOWS TO BREZHNEV AND COMMITTED LENINGRAD TO FULFILL AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM AS OUTLINED AT JULY PLENUM, MAIN THRUST OF HIS SPEECH WAS ON ACCELERATING INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURE THROUGH THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF AGRO-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEXES. HE SAID THAT THE THREE MAIN CONCLUSIONS OF JULY PLENUM WERE ON THE NEED

-- TO MAINTAIN THE ACHIEVED LEVEL OF CAPITAL INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURE WHICH "EXCEEDS 27 PERCENT" IN PRESENT 5 YEAR PLAN.

-- TO EXPLOIT "MORE FULLY" THE WHOLE RANGE OF AGRO-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX, WHICH INCLUDES MANY NEW BRANCHES AND "ALLOWS ON A LARGE SCALE FOR SPECIALIZATION AND CONCENTRATION OF PRODUCTION ON BASIS OF INTER-INDUSTRY COOPERATION."

-- TO REDUCE THE DIFFERENCE IN REVENUE BETWEEN VILLAGE AND INDUSTRIAL WORKERS.

3. ROMANOV'S REMARKS SOUNDED LIKE HIS JUSTIFICATION FOR CONTINUING PRESENT AGRICULTURAL POLICY IN LENINGRAD OBLAST AT AN INTENSIFIED RATE.  
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PAGE 03 LENDING 02032 01 OF 02 241528Z

-- HE REFERRED REPEATEDLY AND FAVORABLY TO MARCH 1965 CC PLENUM AS THE BASIS OF PRESENT POLICY, CITING STATISTICS TO DEMONSTRATE ITS SUCCESS.

-- ARGUED THAT 11TH FIVE YEAR PLAN UNDER PREPARATION CALLS FOR "SHARP SPEEDING UP IN TEMPO OF DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE." UNDER THESE PROJECTIONS, OVERALL OUTPUT IN LENINGRAD OBLAST MUST RISE BY 36-40 PERCENT TO FULFILL LENINGRAD'S NEEDS MORE FULLY FROM LOCAL PRODUCTION.

-- CITED BREZHNEV'S INJUNCTION TO 1971 MEETING OF LENINGRAD PARTY AKTIV AS ORIGIN FOR PRESENT ESTABLISHMENT AROUND LENINGRAD OF RING OF VEGETABLE, MILK, MEAT AND CHICKEN PRODUCING COMPLEXES ORGANIZED ON AN INDUSTRIAL BASIS. THESE SELF-FINANCING AMALGAMATES WERE DESCRIBED AS BEING FIRMLY ESTABLISHED ON TERRITORIAL-BRANCH PRINCIPLE WITHIN SINGLE RAION AS BASIC SUPPLIER OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS. HE ARGUED THAT "PRACTICE HAS CONFIRMED CORRECTNESS OF OUR LINE OF RECONSTRUCTING EXISTING FARMS BY CREATING NEW COMPLEXES AND INTRODUCING PROGRESSIVE TECHNOLOGY"

-- AMALGAMATIONS ALLOW LOCAL PARTY AND SOVIET  
TO CONCENTRATE LABOR AND MATERIAL RESOURCES IN SUPPORT  
-- "PRIVATE AND SUBSIDIARY (PODSOBNOYE) AGRICULTURE"  
WAS TREATED IN PATRONIZING ASIDE AS AN "ADDITIONAL  
RESERVE." ROMANOV PROCEEDED TO IGNORE COMPLETELY  
QUESTION OF PRIVATE PRODUCTION AND STRESS VALUE OF LOMO  
FACTORY'S EXPERIMENT IN SETTING UP ITS OWN AGRICULTURAL  
"SHOP" (TSEKH) IN THE COUNTRY, PRODUCING FOOD FOR SCHOOLS,  
SANITORIA, DACHAS, AND SHOPS IN THE AREA OF THE PLANT.

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PAGE 01 Lening 02032 02 OF 02 241534Z  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LENINGRAD 02032

HE URGED CRYPTICALLY THAT "LEGAL DECISIONS" IN CONNECTION  
WITH CREATION OF SUBSIDIARY AGRICULTURAL UNITS BE SPEEDED  
UP.

-- MAKING SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO SEPT. 1977 DECREES  
ON SPECIALIZATION, CONCENTRATION AND INTER-INDUSTRY  
COOPERATION, ROMANOV CALLED FOR COMPLETING THIS PROGRAM  
IN THE AREAS OF MILK, MEAT, POTATO., AND OPEN AIR VEGE-  
TABLE PRODUCTION. IN THIS SPIRIT, NEW AMALGAMATE WAS  
RECENTLY ESTABLISHED FOR PEDIGREE CATTLE, AND PRINCIPLE  
OF DIVISION OF LABOR NEEDS TO BE EXTENDED TO ZONAL  
SPECIALIZATION IN SEED PRODUCTION OF POTATOES, GRAIN AND  
FODDER.

-- REFLECTING SAME LARGE UNIT BIAS, ROMANOV CRITICIZED  
FACT THAT PRODUCTION IS SCATTERED AMONG SMALL BRIGADES  
(SLAP AT "ZVENO" SYSTEMZFS AND UNITS, AND DEMANDED  
THAT IN "MD8743" EACH SOVKHOZ CREATE LARGE,  
ECONOMICALLY SOUND UNITS OF PRODUCTION. HE ALSO COM-  
PLAINED THAT PROCESS OF CONSOLIDATING SMALL VILLAGES TO

IMPROVE CULTURAL-LIVING CONDITIONS WAS PROCEEDING TOO SLOWLY.

-- THERE WAS MUCH DISCUSSION OF UTILITY OF CLOSE  
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PAGE 02 LENDING 02032 02 OF 02 241534Z

"PATRONAGE" (SHEFSKIY) TIES BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL PLANTS AND AGRO-INDUSTRIAL COMBINES, AND HE CHIDED DIFFERENT INDUSTRIES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH CENTERS FOR FAILING TO PRODUCE SPECIALIZED MACHINES (E.G., CARROT AND CABBAGE HARVESTING EQUIPMENT) ON SCHEDULE. LAG IS PARTICULARLY SERIOUS, HE NOTED, GIVEN DECISION TO BUILD SPECIALIZED FACTORY, "GATCHINSELMASH," TO PRODUCE SPECIALIZED AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY FOR NON-BLACK SOIL AREA OF RSFSR.

-- IN CONNECTION WITH EXTENDED DISCUSSION OF ROLE OF FERTILIZER IN FULFILLING AGRICULTURAL TARGETS, ROMANOV CRITICIZED VOLKHOVSKIY ALUMINIUM PLANT ALONG WITH KINGISEPP "PHOSPHATE" AMALGAMATE FOR LOW QUALITY OF FERTILIZER PRODUCED THERE. CRITICISM CONTRASTED SHARPLY WITH JULY 20 SUPREME SOVIET PRESIDUM AWARDED VOLKHOVSKIY PLANT ORDER OF OCTOBER REVOLUTION INTER ALIA FOR INTRODUCING NEW TECHNOLOGICAL PROCESSES ALLOWING FOR ONE-THIRD INCREASE IN OUTPUT OF FERTILITY CONCENTRATES AND FULFILLMENT NOW OF 1980 PRODUCTION GOAL FOR DOUBLE SUPERPHOSPHATES. ROMANOV IS REPORTED TO HAVE SENT CONGRATULATORY TELEGRAM.

-- A NUMBER OF OTHER CRITICISMS ARE WORTH NOTING: E.G., ONE-FIFTH OF ALL VEGETABLES RECEIVED IN STORAGE BINS ARE SUB-STANDARD AND LOSSES DURING STORAGE RUN TO 15 PERCENT. ONLY ABOUT HALF OF 33 THOUSAND TONS OF CABBAGES PRODUCED IN THREE RAIONS ACTUALLY REACHED CONSUMER. IN PAST YEAR, LENINGRAD OBLAST RECEIVED 700,000 TONS OF CHEMICAL FERTILIZER (2.5 TIMES 1965) BUT MUCH IS MISAPPLIED, E.G., ONE AMALGAMATE USED 1.5 TIMES MORE FERTILIZER TO ACHIEVE 12 PERCENT INCREASE IN PRODUCTION. RATE OF INCREASE OF DAIRY CATTLE IN PAST SIX MONTHS IS DOWN, OVERALL MILK PRODUCTION HAS INCREASED  
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PAGE 03 LENDING 02032 02 OF 02 241534Z

ONLY 2 PERCENT AND HAS ACTUALLY DROPPED IN THREE RAIONS.

4. ROMANOV CONCLUDED SPEECH BY AN EXHORTATION TO ALL PARTY, SOVIET AND ECONOMIC ORGANS TO SHOW "HIGH ORGANIZATION AND FLEXIBILITY" IN VIEW OF "COMPLICATED WEATHER

CONDITION" WHICH CONFRONTS AGRICULTURE AND LIVE STOCK  
WORKERS WITH "DIFFICULT EXAMINATION." BUT HE, OF COURSE,  
PLEDGED TO CC POLITBURO AND BREZHNEV THAT LENINGRAD PARTY  
ORGANIZATION WOULD GIVE ITS ALL TO CARRY OUT TASKS SET  
BY JULY PLENUM AND 25TH PARTY CONGRESS. BUCHANAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Concepts:** AGRICULTURE, SPEECHES  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ROMANOV SPEECH ON AGRICULTURE  
**TAGS:** PINT, EAGR, UR, (ROMANOV)  
**To:** MOSCOW  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014